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February 2024

## NEWS TO KNOW

### **FY 2025 State Transit Assistance - Application Available Now**

The FY 2025 State Transit Assistance application is available via the following link: [Transit Applications and Reporting | Missouri Department of Transportation \(modot.org\)](#). Applications are due April 1, 2024, and can be submitted to [motransit@modot.mo.gov](mailto:motransit@modot.mo.gov). The State Transit Assistance program assists public transit providers by covering 50% of their transportation operating cost. The project period for these funds is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

### **FY 2025 Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Assistance Program (MEHTAP) - Application Available Now**

The FY 2025 Missouri Elderly and Handicapped Assistance Program application is available via the following link: [Transit Applications and Reporting | Missouri Department of Transportation \(modot.org\)](#). Applications are due April 1, 2024, and can be submitted to [motransit@modot.mo.gov](mailto:motransit@modot.mo.gov). The MEHTAP program assists non-for-profits and governmental/public transit providers supporting the transportation of seniors and individuals with disabilities by covering 50% of their transportation operating cost. The project period for these funds is July 1, 2024, through June 30, 2025.

### **FTA Procurement Cost and Price Analysis - Regulation and Best Practices E-Learning Course**

FTA's new Procurement Cost and Price Analysis - Regulations and Best Practices e-learning course is now available! The course provides recipients with an understanding of the fundamentals and best practices for procurement cost and price analysis. The lessons from this e-learning course can be helpful for FTA recipients in mitigating procurement findings during State Management and Triennial Reviews. This course is about two hours and can be accessed at the following link: [Procurement Cost and Price Analysis - Regulations and Best Practices e-Learning Course](#).

# HOT Transit Topic - Volunteer Driver Programs

## Volunteer Driver Insurance Requirements!

Volunteers dedicate their time to the organization and the people it serves. Being a driver is a fantastic way to give back to the community. While volunteers do what they do out of kindness, anyone who volunteers for a company or organization in the State of Missouri, and drives a vehicle, must have insurance. If your organization utilizes volunteer drivers, they must carry proper vehicle insurance coverage required by Missouri and meet the requirements of your agency. Insurance helps to mitigate the financial risks to the driver, your agency and the State of Missouri. Volunteers are required to maintain insurance for any vehicles they own that will be used for transporting your clients.

Your agency is responsible for providing insurance that covers the volunteer driver when operating vehicles registered to the agency. An auto insurance policy usually includes several types of protections or “coverages” — some required and some optional. Your agency can require additional coverage for volunteers driving personal vehicles. The State of Missouri requires personal vehicle insurance policies (for volunteer drivers using personal vehicles) include the minimum coverage listed below. Each type of liability coverage may be priced separately. Please note that FTA Section 5310 and FTA Section 5311 programs utilizing volunteer drivers must also verify that general collision insurance protection is included with the following minimum coverages (for volunteer drivers operating federally funded vehicles).

### Required- Liability 25/50/25\*

**Bodily Injury Liability** - \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident.

This covers injuries to others caused by you.

**Property Damage Liability** - \$25,000 per accident.

This coverage pays for damages you cause to someone else’s car or to objects and structures your car hits.

**Uninsured Motorist** - \$25,000 per person and \$50,000 per accident.

This covers injuries to you and your passengers caused by an uninsured or hit-and-run driver.

*\*Missouri Department of Insurance; <https://insurance.mo.gov>*

Bodily injury coverage pays for injuries caused by an accident in which the driver of the covered vehicle was at fault, while property damage pays for any resulting damage to real or personal property. This kind of liability coverage does not pay for damage to the policy holder's own vehicle. Volunteer drivers can purchase coverage for repair or replacement of their vehicle if it is damaged in an accident they cause (collision coverage), or if it is damaged by weather, an animal or another cause (comprehensive coverage), but these are not required in Missouri.

Organizations may offer “non-owned” or “hired” auto insurance for running errands and sometimes routes as a volunteer. “Non-owned” and “hired” auto insurance offers additional liability coverage and even legal assistance to individuals driving their own vehicles for business or volunteer purposes. Personal auto insurance policies generally provide coverage for personal use of the vehicle, but they may not extend coverage for volunteer activities. It is essential for volunteers to review their policy carefully and contact their insurance provider to understand the limitations and determine if additional coverage is necessary. Some insurance companies offer special rates or discounts for volunteers as recognition of their service to the community. It is recommended for volunteers to inquire with insurance providers and mention their volunteer activities to explore available discounts or benefits.

Additionally, certain volunteer organizations or associations may have partnerships with insurance companies that offer discounted rates to their members. In conclusion, it is critical for volunteers to inform their insurance provider about their volunteer driving activities. Providing accurate information allows the insurance company to assess the risk associated with the activities and determine if additional coverage is required. Failing to disclose relevant information could result in the denial of a claim. A great tool sponsored by the Missouri Department of Commerce and Insurance (MoDCI) is the [Top 5 Auto Policy Overview](#). This tool allows you to review and compare coverage options for the top five auto carriers in Missouri.

## FEDERAL ACTIONS & UPDATES



U.S. Department of Transportation  
Federal Transit Administration

### Notice of Funding Opportunities

**USDOT RAISE Grant Program – Feb. 28, 2024**, deadline. There is about \$1.5 billion available to support projects with significant local or regional impact. Past awarded projects can be reviewed [here](#).

**EPA Climate Pollution Reduction Grants Program – April 1, 2024**, deadline. There is about \$4.6 billion available to address GHG emission reduction strategies, including through transit measures. Full NOFO and guidance is available here: [grants.gov](#). On page nine of the NOFO, there is an illustrative list of example eligible measures from the transportation sector, many of which involve transit.

NOFO: GHG Reduction Measure Examples:

- Electrification requirements for state transit equipment fleets.
- Policies to expand transit use, such as van-pool programs, ridesharing and transit fare subsidies.
- New or expanded transportation infrastructure projects to facilitate public transit.

**New FTA Low-No and Buses & Bus Facilities Grant Programs – April 25, 2024**, deadline. There are about \$1.1 billion and \$390 million made available respectively for the two programs.

## UPCOMING REPORTING

### January 2024

2023 Title VI Survey (all programs) -- DUE Feb. 6

DAMIS (Drug & Alcohol) Reporting -- DUE Feb. 15

### April 2024

DEB Semi-Annual Reporting -- 5311s

All reporting forms and related information will be sent out by Program Manager via email.

**Notices on all above reporting will be sent through InTransit. A subscription link can be found at the bottom of this communication.**

## UPCOMING CONFERENCES

### 2024 FTA Drug and Alcohol Program National Conference

Apr. 2-4, 2024

Atlanta, GA

### 2024 CTAA Expo

Jun. 9-12, 2024  
West Palm Beach, FL

## 2024 MPTA Conference

Sept. 3-5, 2024

St. Louis, MO

(D&A Training for 5311s is on the afternoon of Tuesday, Sept. 3)

## TRAINING RESOURCES

National RTAP: <https://www.nationalrtap.org/>

Missouri RTAP: <https://mltrc.mst.edu/mortaphome/>

National Transit Institute (NTI) <https://www.ntionline.com/>

National Center for Mobility Management (NCMM) <https://nationalcenterformobilitymanagement.org/>

Community Transportation Association of America (CTAA): <https://ctaa.org/>

USDOT Drug and Alcohol: <https://www.transportation.gov/odapc>

FTA Drug and Alcohol: <https://www.transit.dot.gov/drug-alcohol-program>

FMCSA Drug and Alcohol: <https://www.fmcsa.dot.gov/regulations/drug-alcohol-testing-program>

FTA Webinars and Trainings [Homepage](#)

National Transit Institute's [Current Course Schedule](#) of Upcoming Training

FTA-Sponsored Training Courses [Homepage](#) | FTA [Safety Training Page](#) & [Enhanced Safety Trainings](#)

TSI Public Transportation [Catalogue](#) | TSI [Course Schedule PDF](#)

National RTAP [Upcoming Webinars](#)

CTAA [Training Calendar](#)

APTAU Learning [Homepage](#)

NCMM [e-Learning Catalogue](#)

Easterseals Project Action [Course Schedule](#)

Mineta Transportation Institute [Upcoming Webinars](#)

SUMC MLC [Learning Modules](#)

**Visit our Website**

**For additional questions or concerns:**

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